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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, December 29, 1980 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended December 20 totaled an estimated 18.4 billion ton-miles, 0.8 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 51 weeks of 1980 was an estimated 903 billion ton-miles, 0.1 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended December 20 totaled 444,258 cars, 3.3 percent below 1979, and 3.6 percent lower than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 0.8 percent in the East, 2.4 percent in the South, and 5.5 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1979, 14 of the 21 commodity groups were down. However, coal loadings totaled 121,733 cars, 10,528 cars, or 9.5 percent, higner tnan last year and otner farm products were up 1,040 cars, or 24.4 percent. Seventeen of the 21 groups were down from the preceding week of tnis year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback revenue freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended December 13 totaled 33,944 cars, down 8.1 percent from the corresponding week of 1979, and 61,391 trailers and/or containers, 7.2 percent below last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 50 weeks of the year was 1,605,441 cars, 10.8 percent lower than last year, and 2,914,759 trailers and/or containers, down 8.2 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 12/20/80:

	Loadings in Week ended December 20, 1980		Change from Corresponding Week 1979			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	31,170	D	2,751	8.1	I	3,403	12.3
Other farm products	5,303	I	1,040	24.4	D	868	14.1
Metallic ores	30,037	I	808	2.8	D	4,299	12.5
Coal	121,733	I	10,528	9.5	D	1,328	1.1
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	10,119	D	2,058	16.9	D	1,911	15.9
Nonmetallic minerals	12,968	D	1,937	13.0	D	1,351	9.4
Grain mill products	16,562	D	2,010	10.8	D	576	3.4
Food and kindred products	16,031	D	3,736	18.9	D	839	5.0
Primary forest products	19,254	D	1,377	6.7	D	603	3.0
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,978	D	2,573	22.3	I	2	0.0
Pulp, paper and allied products	20,440	D	2,076	9.2	D	366	1.8
Chemicals and allied products	29,269	I	117	0.4	D	374	1.3
Petroleum products	5,501	D	765	12.2	D	230	4.0
Stone, clay and glass products	13,654	D	2,469	16.3	D	1,353	9.0
Coke	5,623	I	28	0.5	I	107	1.9
Metals and products	15,409	D	986	6.0	D	423	2.7
Motor vehicles and equipment	15,057	D	1,753	10.4	D	5,169	25.6
Waste and scrap materials	13,639	I	295	2.2	D	520	3.7
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	10,723	D	1,326	11.0	D	48	0.4
All other carloads	42,530	D	2,330	5.2	I	79	0.2
LCL traffic	258	I	43	20.0	D	53	17.0
Total Cars Loaded	444,258	D	15,288	3.3	D	16,720	3.6
Corresponding week of 1979	459,546						

	1980	1979	%	Change
Total Cars Loaded (51 weeks)	22,312,007	23,585,656	D	5.4
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
50 weeks cumulative	884.2	883.0	I	0.1
Week ended December 20	18.4	18.5	D	0.8
51 weeks cumulative	902.5	901.5	I	0.1

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